

Parish Council Minutes – 16 February 2006

Attending:

Barrie Sawyer - Music & Worship
Dunc Ballantyne – Social Action
Laura Corey – Long Range Planning
Ellen Hoy – Parish Board
Neil Olson – RE, CORI TF
Deb Sweet – DRE
Paul Willenbrock – Capital Campaign TF

Sylvia Howe - Minister
Martha Brennan - Auction
Sue Hacker - RE
Steve Hoy - Membership
Terrence Sturm – Building
Lynn Willenbrock - Parish Board

Housekeeping:

Laura Corey takes minutes
Minutes from the January meeting were reviewed and approved
Committee Reports (additions to the published reports and discussion items):

Building – Money for the rainbow flag came out of the Muir fund.

Music and Worship – Report was submitted, but email was lost.

- 1) No Verbal Announcement Policy – Appears to be working well and will continue with some flexibility for really critical items. May include specific announcements in the Order of Service as line items.
- 2) Hymnal Supplements are in! We got a 20% discount thanks to Beth Williams.

Stewardship – Canvass parties are not entirely working out due to scheduling conflicts. There will also be pledge cards available on Sundays.

Membership - Steve asks if the listing in the paper can be changed on a weekly basis. Paula will investigate.

Staff Reports – Sexton's report very thorough, details current projects.

Auction Report – April 8 - 70s Theme (think lava lamps and disco. On March 19th there will be a kickoff event with tie-dye T-shirts for \$5. The committee is still looking for donations of items from members and people solicit local businesses for donation. 10% of the proceeds will go to Bootstraps.

Policy for Disruptive Behavior at First Parish Church – Neil, Ellen, Deb

An issue has emerged with a person who has attended FPC for some time. A pattern of disruptive and harassing behavior targeted at adults, children and staff in the congregation has recently come to light. Using UUA resources, a policy has been drafted that will guide FPC's response both to this case and to potential future cases.

Ellen remarks that it is important that the congregation be aware that the lay leadership takes this issue seriously and is taking steps to respond effectively. Among the provisions of the policy that will be implemented immediately:

The back door will be locked at 10 am on Sundays.

During Sunday service the only adults allowed into Hale Hall are authorized teachers and parents/guardians accompanying their children.

Sunday school teachers must have been active participates in FPC for 6 months before beginning work as a teacher.

Joint Council/Board session to discuss budget: Date TBD

Capital Fund Drive Task Force Preliminary Report – Paul Willenbrock

The CFDTF presented the report to the board at their meeting in January; the Board will vote on it in February. The TF will also hold Town Meetings to discuss the report with the congregation at large using a PowerPoint presentation prepared by Paul and Doug Baumoel.

Barrie asks if there is a plan to sell the silver to finance the improvements. Paul says no.

Terrence asks if there will be a professional program study. That remains a possibility. There will definitely be a congregational survey to gauge the congregation's priorities to guide the process. The goal is to get 60% of the membership to respond; the survey will be distributed electronically, at committee meetings, at Sunday Service, etc.

Safe Congregations – Deb Sweet

Deb attended a workshop on Safe Congregations that provided a great deal of information but did give specific ideas for how to implement the policies in a real congregation. For example: it is clear that professional staff are mandatory reporters of child abuse (a la social workers) but it is not clear if Sunday school teachers or Youth Group Advisors are.

A related issue is the implementation of CORI/SORI background checks on volunteers who interact with children. A draft policy is now being reviewed by the Board and will be discussed at the next Council. As this policy is drafted and implemented, a huge concern is how the information will be handled. This sort of information about congregants has not been handled before by the professional staff at FPC.

What we would like to Board to know:

We hope they appreciate how much work went into the CFD's report and we hope that they support them in their efforts to get the next phase of this process underway.